

MURRAY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Board Members in Attendance

Jeff Beal
Sunshine Szedeli
Mindy Canova
Ted Maestas
Kim Sorensen
Excused Dana Dmitrich

The Parks & Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:41 pm by Ted Maestas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jeff to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mindy. Motion was unanimous.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

JORDAN RIVER ADVENTURES PRESENTATION

Jordan River Adventures was not present for this meeting.

VENTURE OUT-PRESENTATION

Murray Float on the Jordan River was the catalyst for this presentation. Representatives included Aimee McConkie with Venture Out, Martin Frey with Summit Journeys and Robyn Kremer with Venture Out. The purpose of the presentation was to determine if there could be a partnership between Venture Out, Murray City and Summit Journeys to encourage people to get out on the Jordan River. With an official name of Utah Venture Outdoors, Venture Out is a nonprofit organization that prompts citizens to step outdoors and observe recreational activities available to them in the state, i.e. paddle boarding, live music, animals, kids run, along with vendors who provide activities based on theme nights. Summit Journey's purpose is to get people outdoors. Venture Out arranges the gathering of people together and solidifying operations. These organizations joined to raise awareness concerning the amenities available to citizens in various areas. The Jordan River Parkway Trail was such an amenity. Aimee McConkie shared Murray City was the sole innovator of enhancing and maintaining this outdoor space in such a meticulous way

that it staged Murray City as prime candidate for recreational activities that included the river. The proposed idea was kayaking along Murray City's portion of Jordan River with launching and disembarking at Winchester Park and Arrowhead Park respectively. Concern over parking surfaced and McConkie stated there would be a 20-28 guest maximum, with guests possibly attending in groups, so cars would be at a minimum. Martin Frey voiced there would be guides at the launch, instructing passengers on safety and the float process. Age demographics fall between 12-17 yrs. and 20-30 years but all ages can participate. Broad overview of timeline for implementation would be March-June, solicit grant and sponsorship, order equipment, and begin marketing. June through mid-October would be months of operation. Lastly, extensive evaluation of operations to determine activity success. The next steps toward approval for implementation would be a support letter from Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and apply for available grants that could fund the boat ramps. Jeff Beal inquired about the monetary logistics. Aimee McConkie said patrons would reserve/pay online. Plan would be to charge enough to cover expenses aside from grants, but affordable for patrons. Soren Simonsen from the Jordan River Commission suggested having a trip once a month to do river clean up. Ted Maestas inquired if other cities had been approached about this program. Martin Frey shared the best spot really is in Murray City from Winchester to Arrowhead Park. Mindy mentioned concern if there is an algae bloom on the river during trip season. The group said they would monitor that possibility but didn't think it would be a problem. Paddling is a way to be in the water but not immersed in water. Kim mentioned two questions that have surfaced: Will entry be made on north or south side of 6400 S. bridge? Reply: Ramp entry will be right from Winchester Park which is North side of bridge. What is the desired schedule for tours? Daily? On Weekends? Reply: Aimee McConkie shared it depends on interest and how well the activity takes off. Essentially, the desire is for Venture Out to spearhead the program but subsequently Murray City would assume responsibility to keep it going. Sunshine shared concern this additional traffic to the embankment would inhibit limitation of bank erosion along with impacting wildlife presence along the river. Ted Maestas shared concern over the large amount of people this could attract and all the trash that could be generated. Jeff Beal made a recommendation to explore further the notion of using the river for this activity and address the challenges that may come with it. Mindy seconded. Motion was unanimous.

OUTDOOR POOL HOURS

Amanda Sangroniz came to address amendment of outdoor pool hours. Currently pool hours are M-TH 11-8 pm, Friday 11-6pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10-6pm. Private rentals are scheduled from 8:15 to 10:15 pm during the week. Amanda tallied numbers from 2019 season and discovered during the M-Th hours usage dropped tremendously after 6 pm. Friday and Saturday closure is 6 pm so patrons reserve this earlier time for private rentals. The majority of these slots are already filled. Amanda proposed the pool close at 7 pm instead of 8, M-Th in order to accommodate more private rentals for earlier reserve times. The new private rental availability would be 7:15-9:15 pm. Fridays and Saturdays would stay the same. Amanda shared this would help her staffing costs as well. Indoor pool is open until 10 pm (9:45 pm, prior to close) for patrons who want to swim longer. Sunshine made a motion to change summer outdoor pool closure hours from 8 pm to 7 pm, M-Th, to accommodate more private rentals and programming. Mindy seconded motion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kim shared Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent is in the process of replacing playground at Germania Park. Board can provide feedback to Bruce on any ideas they have regarding this project. Murray theater

is progressing. Meeting with contractor and architect last week. Contractor has put together an estimate of cost so far and it is coming in under budget. Pavilion project- first pavilion scheduled to ship on February 21st. This is for pavilion #1, a smaller sized pavilion. Pavilions 3 and 4 are scheduled to follow a few weeks following and Pavilion 2, the largest, won't be shipped until most likely April. Parks in the process of designing pavilion 5. Parks and Recreation currently creating upcoming year's budget. Priority project is Murray theater where one million was budgeted last year, 3.7 million from county, and hopefully a couple of million budgeted for this upcoming year. The total need for this project is seven million. Another priority project is the outdoor pool parking lot which will completed in the Fall. Master Plan meeting scheduled for March 2 at city hall. Board can attend. March 3 meeting scheduled to present plan draft to city council. March 17th scheduled meeting to go to city council for adoption of the master plan. Comments closed online to offer input on master plan draft. Bruce is preparing grant request to fund a new boulder playground at Winchester Park. Board expressed support for this playground in previous board meeting. Ted Maestas drafted a support letter on behalf of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Grant will need to be completed early March. Kim asked board if they favored the poured in place surface at Willow Pond. Sunshine and Mindy approve of it and have heard suggestions to remove the sandy areas around other playgrounds. Poured in place does not hold heat so patrons will not risk getting too hot while utilizing playground. Kim mentioned the Park Center will be soliciting budget approval to open on Sundays during the months of May, September, and October. Patrons are requesting exercise time on Sundays. By extending hours through May, it will carry patrons through to outdoor pool opening on Memorial Day. Park Center will be requesting slightly more funding for staff costs on those time adjustments. Sunshine asked if Kim would be in touch with Venture out and Summit. Kim confirmed yes. Bruce stated Jordan River Commission shared their desire to attract more cyclists to the Jordan River Parkway Trail, even motorized bikes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to end the meeting at 7 p.m.. Motion was unanimous.